

Chapter 07

DIVERSITY IN LIVING ORGANISMS

Kingdom Animalia:

Diversity:

Variety of people or things that are very different from each other.

Bio – Diversity:

Variety of life forms found in a particular region. Diverse life forms share the environment, and are affected by each other too. As a result, a stable community of different species comes into existence.

Classification and Evolution:

All living things are identified and categorised on the basis of their body design in form and function. Some characteristics are likely to make more wide-ranging changes in body design than others. There is a role of time in this as well. So, once a certain body design comes into existence, it will shape the effects of all other subsequent design changes, simply because it already exists. In other words, characteristics that came into existence earlier are likely to be more basic than characteristics that have come into existence later.

This means that the classification of life forms will be closely related to their evolution. What is evolution? Most life forms that we see today have arisen by an accumulation of changes in body design that allow the organism possessing them to survive better. Charles

Darwin first described this idea of evolution in 1859 in his book, “The Origin of Species”.

